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SSC-0017-74

23 January 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Security (P&M)

SUBJECT : Defense Attache Communications Facility,
Saigon

1. Pursuant to your request there is attached:
 - a. A 21 January 1974 Washington Post article reporting that messages intended for Ambassador Bunker were improperly passed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff by the ITT communications center in Saigon, and
 - b. An extracted portion from the Minutes of the Security Committee meeting of 25 September 1973, during which a DIA request for waiver to DCID 1/47 to permit contractor personnel of Federal Electric Corporation access to controlled dissem traffic at the Defense Attache Communications Facility in Saigon was discussed, in addition to a 20 September 1973 UPI dispatch alleging poor security practices at the facility.
2. You will note that both the 21 January 1974 article and the 20 September 1973 dispatch were sourced to one Stephan M. Davis, former ITT employee at the facility.

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Rerouting Secret Data Disclosed

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Jan. 19 (AP)—Top secret messages intended for Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker or other high civilian officials in Saigon were routinely passed on to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says a man who worked as a document coordinator in South Vietnam.

• Steven M. Davis, 23, said in an interview that it was common practice at the ITT communications center in Saigon for such messages to be retransmitted to Adm. Thomas Moorer, chairman of the joint chiefs. Davis said he worked as a civilian top secret document coordinator at the communications center from January to June in 1973.

Davis said he worked for Federal Electronic Corp., an ITT subsidiary.

Asked about Davis' charges, Frank Rauzi, security manager for the corporation, based in

Paramus, N.J., said the "allegations are not entirely wrong, but they were investigated fully by ITT and the military . . . I wouldn't say it didn't happen. It could be. Possibly, yes."

Davis said that while he was on duty he handled all top secret messages coming into the center. "I would deliver the message, and as far as I was concerned that was it," he said.

"Then all of a sudden I would notice that all these other offices had the message and it was being retransmitted to Hawaii, to Thailand, to the JCS," he said.

"I have never in my life seen things so messed up. People with the Joint Chiefs of Staff weren't supposed to get messages, they got them. People in the embassy weren't supposed to get messages, they got them."

Davis, who lives in a Sacramento suburb, said messages sent to the joint chiefs included information on the strategic arms limitation talks, Vietnam negotiations, State Department business and CIA investigations.

"These messages were coming from the Secretary of State, they were coming from the White House, they were coming from the CIA," Davis said. "A lot of them specifically had to do with Bunker. None of this information was supposed to go anywhere else. It was supposed to be kept in these types of channels."

Davis said he protested the security violations to his superiors but was told to keep quiet. He said he was fired after telling the CIA about the practices.

Pentagon officials had no immediate comment on Davis' assertion.

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